

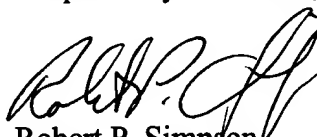
cover sheet. In view of the history regarding this application (potential anthrax contamination and previous restart of time period for reply) and Applicant's desire to dispose the matter, Applicant, respectfully submits this reply within 1 month from the facsimile date of Office Action.

Remarks

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Claims 29-43, in the event that linking Claims 1-11 are not allowed. Applicant hereby provisionally withdraws claims 12-28 from consideration and respectfully traverses the restriction requirement.

Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is improper as the inventions of Claims 12-28 (Species I) and 29-43 (Species II) are both drawn to microscope assemblies for confocal scanning microscopy. Thus, the examination of Species I and Species II would not place a serious, or undue, burden upon the Examiner. MPEP §803.

Respectfully submitted,



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RPS/SPK
Enclosures